

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 840 - HB 1352

March 24, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates a pilot project to determine whether convenient voting centers could successfully be established for local and state elections to make it convenient for voters to vote at centralized voting areas on Election Day in the county in which the voter is registered, regardless of the voter's precinct. A super majority of at least four of the five county Election Commissioners must approve their willingness to participate in the pilot program if the county is to be selected by the state Coordinator of Elections for inclusion in the pilot program. Upon affirmative vote by the super majority vote of the county election commission, the commission must submit to the coordinator of elections a project plan for the convenient voting centers. The Coordinator of Elections must approve such project plan prior to the county election commission implementing such plan. Upon approval of the project plan for the convenient voting centers, the county election commission will create a program that establishes convenient voting centers within the county for state and local elections scheduled in 2016. Establishes the framework for which the program must operate. Requires the Coordinator of Elections to file a report with the State and Local Government Committee of the Senate and the Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives by January 31 following any election conducted under the pilot project. The report must contain the coordinator's evaluation of the pilot project together with the coordinator's recommendations as to whether convenient voting centers should continue for future elections statewide.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$95,800/FY15-16

Decreases Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$96,800/FY16-17/Permissive

Other Fiscal Impact – The increase in state expenditures reported above is not certain, but contingent on local decisions to participate in this voting center pilot project.

Assumptions:

- The Division of Elections requested financial estimates from counties who are willing to participate in the pilot project. The counties project during the first fiscal year, which will include the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP), most counties will have an initial cost to set-up the vote centers.
- By statute, the state pays for each PPP election held.

- Henry, Rutherford, and Sumner counties reported a total one-time cost of \$95,816 for FY15-16 to purchase additional computers, for network capability, and various voter outreach to educate the public as to the new locations of polling centers.
- The Division of Elections reports the program will likely save counties by lowering training and officials needed for Election Day as well as various other election supplies. The reported estimated savings for the three counties for the upcoming August and November 2016 elections was \$96,840 occurring in FY16-17.
- These totals will depend on the number of counties that are willing to participate and are selected to participate in the pilot program. It is assumed a minimum of three total counties will choose to participate in the program.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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